

**Process for removing surface distributed hydrocarbons, especially oil spills**  
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**EXEMPLARY CLAIMS**- 1. Process for the removal of surface-distributed hydrocarbons, characterized in that water and a polyether containing isocyanate end groups are allowed to act on the hydrocarbons and the gel containing the hydrocarbons which is formed is removed mechanically.; 2. Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that, as a polyether containing isocyanate end groups, a polyalkylene oxide of the formula (I) is used; in which; R. represents an alkyl radical having 3 to 18 C atoms; R., R., R<sup>(sup)4</sup> and R<sup>(sup)5</sup> are identical or different and each represent hydrogen or an alkyl radical having 1 to 20 C atoms; R<sup>(sup)6</sup> represents optionally substituted alkylene having 4 to 30 C atoms, cycloalkylene having 5 to 30 C atoms or arylene having 6 to 30 C atoms.; x and y are identical or different and each represent a whole number from 5 to 200 and n represents one of the numbers 3, 4, 5 or 6.; 3. Process according to Claim 2, characterized in that in formula (I); R. represents an alkyl radical having 3 to 10.C atoms; R., R., R<sup>(sup)4</sup> and R<sup>(sup)5</sup> are identical or different and each represent hydrogen or an alkyl radical having 1 to 12 C atoms; R<sup>(sup)6</sup> represents alkylene having 4 to 20 C atoms, which is optionally substituted with C<sub>(sub)1</sub>-C<sub>(sub)4</sub>-alkyl, isocyanate and/or chlorine groups, cycloalkylene having 5 to 20 C atoms or arylene having 6 to 20 C atoms or bi- or tricyclic cycloalkylene or arylene, in which the individual rings independently of one another each represent a cycloalkylene or arylene radical of this type and the individual rings are linked directly and/ or via oxygen, CH, CH<sub>(sub)2</sub>, C(CH<sub>(sub)3</sub>)<sub>(sub)2</sub> and/ or C(CH<sub>(sub)3</sub>) bridges.; x and y are identical or different and each represent a whole number from 8 to 50 and; n represents one of the numbers 3, 4 or 5.; 4. Process according to Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the polyether containing isocyanate end groups is mixed with water and allowed to act on the hydrocarbons.

**DESIGNATED COUNTRY(S)**- DE, FR, GB, IT, NL.